

Dollar-bird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) at Karratha.—On January 10, 1979 I was advised by Mr D. H. Fleming of Karratha that a bird, believed to be a Dollar-bird, was perching on power lines adjacent to his residence in Richardson Way, Karratha. He had seen two similar birds at the same location two days previously.

I inspected the area in question at 1800 hrs and observed a bird "rolling in" to perch on power lines about 12 m away from my observation point. Careful observation confirmed it as a Dollar-bird. Checks of the area after the 19th did not result in further sightings.

Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 5th Edition, 1976) record two previous sightings from the Pilbara—one on June 14, 1953 at Winning Pool by J. H. Calaby and one in December 1972 at Shay Gap by John Darnell.

—R. E. S. SOKOLOWSKI, Reserves Officer, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Karratha.

Little Corellas feeding on Immature Seed of *Acacia trachycarpa*.—On August 8, 1978 at 0715 H a flock of 40 Little Corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*) were observed in a small clump of wattle, *Acacia trachycarpa* E. Pritzl (Mimosaceae), located outside the passenger terminal of the Port Hedland Airport. On closer inspection it was found that the birds were feeding on immature seeds within the pods. These seeds were soft and lacked the hardened testa of the mature seed (Fig. 1). The birds did not remove the pods from the wattle but merely excised the seeds (Fig. 2). Not all the seeds from each pod were eaten. *Acacia trachycarpa* is widely distributed in the Pilbara region of the State (Hopper & Maslin, *Aust. J. Bot.*, 1978, 26: 63-78). It flowers in May-June while pods containing mature seeds are present in late October; both appear to vary with seasonal conditions. A voucher specimen of *Acacia trachycarpa* is lodged in the Western Australian Herbarium (PERTH).

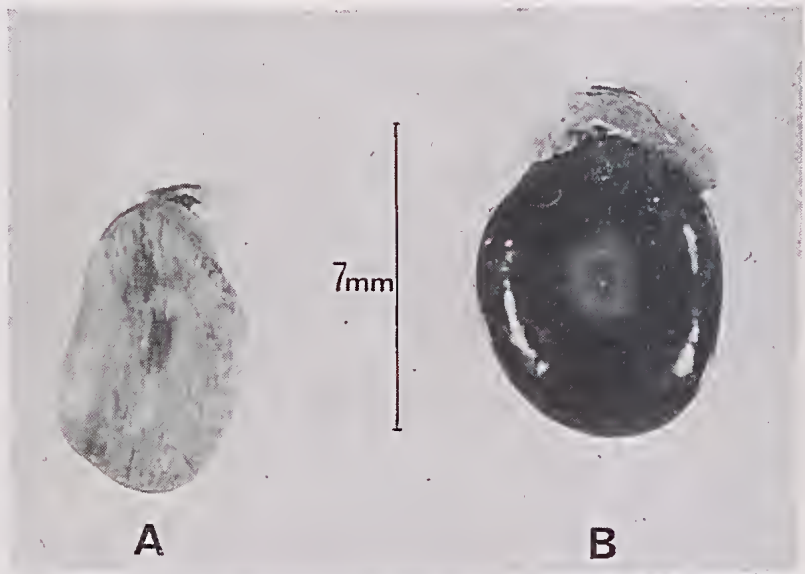


Fig. 1.—Seed of *Acacia trachycarpa*. A: immature seed on which Little Corellas were feeding at Port Hedland airport (from Kenneally 6833). B: mature seed showing hard, black, shiny testa (from Demarz D57-7).

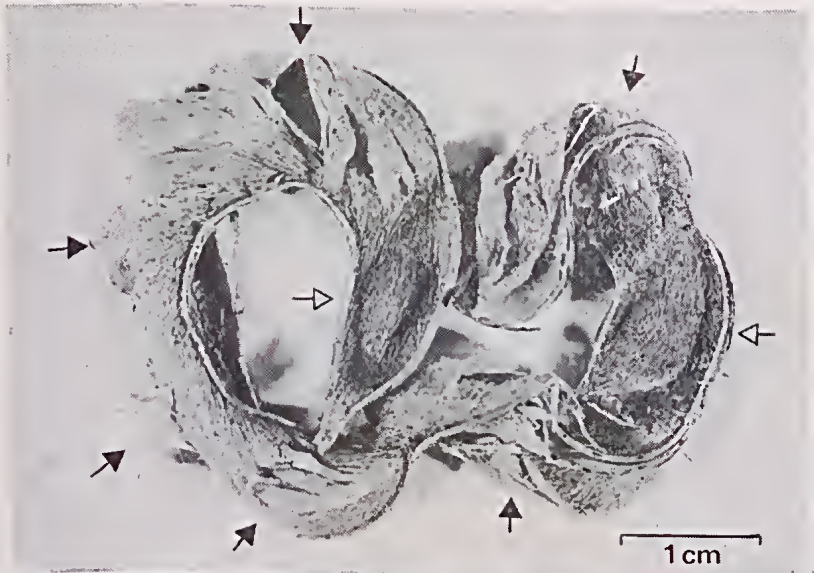


Fig. 2.—Pod of *Acacia trachycarpa*. Black arrows indicate where seeds have been excised; clear arrows indicate where the seeds have not been removed (from Kenneally 6833).

—K. F. KENNEALLY Western Australian Herbarium and K. C. PIRKOPF, Nedlands.

Second Australian Specimen of the Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*).—

On January 8, 1979 Mr W. H. Butler collected a Pintail Snipe at Myarec Pool on the Maitland River near Karratha HS. Mr Butler kindly donated the specimen (and several other Pilbara birds and reptiles) to the Western Australian Museum.

This specimen (A15868) is similar in size to the first (*West. Aust. Nat.*, 13: 207). According to Mr Butler it was a male (testes 4 x 4 mm), weighed 107.6 g, and was 19 cm long in the flesh. Other measurements (in mm) are wing 131, tail 48, entire bill 63 and tarsus 31. The tail consists of 26 feathers, including on each side 8 narrow outer rectrices; the outermost rectrix is only 0.9 mm wide. In coloration, however, this specimen differs in no way from our series of *G. megala* (the first specimen had a darker tail). We therefore believe that the snipes visiting Western Australia can only be distinguished after counting the tail feathers and measuring the width of the outermost.

—G. M. STORR & R. E. JOHNSTONE, Western Australian Museum.

Further southward spread of White-backed Swallow on Swan Coastal Plain.—Following the recent note by N. Kolichis (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 14: 131) concerning the spread of the White-backed Swallow (*Ctheramoea leucosternum*) southwards through the Swan Coastal Plain, I can report a further extension of range south to Lake Jandakot (Lake Forrestdale) on March 16, 1979. A single bird was present, calling its way through large numbers of Tree Martins (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) feeding over the lakebed.

It appears that in 13 years, the species has extended its range on the coastal plain by the span of the Perth metropolitan area, or about 40 km from Wanneroo to Forrestdale.

—PETER CURRY, Kelmscott.